

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process[,] comprising:

coating at least a portion of a surface of at least one silica particle with at least one wax [[,]] wherein said coating is carried out in a milling chamber with at least one gas at a temperature above the melting point of said wax ~~and below the decomposition temperature of said wax,~~ while

spraying a gas heated to a temperature of from 60 to 160°C into the milling chamber  
wherein the temperature of the gas at an outlet of the milling chamber is from 40 to 140°C,

to obtain at least one wax-coated silica particle.

Claim 2 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said gas is selected from the group consisting of air, nitrogen, argon, and a mixture thereof.

Claim 3 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising milling said silica particle.

Claim 4 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the milling is carried out simultaneously with the coating.

Claim 5 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 3, wherein the milling is carried out prior to the coating.

Claim 6 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the temperature ranges from 40 to 200°C.

Claim 7 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said silica particle is coated with 2 to 15% by weight of wax, relative to the weight of the silica particle.

Claim 8 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein said wax is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene wax, Fischer-Tropsch wax, silicone-based wax, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising classifying said silica particle.

Claim 10 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising classifying said wax-coated silica particle.

Claim 11 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising producing said silica particle by acidic precipitation.

Claim 12 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising, prior to said coating, drying said silica particle.

Claim 13 (Original): The process as claimed in claim 1, further comprising contacting said wax-coated silica particle with a coating composition.

Claim 14 (Original): A wax-coated silica particle, produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 15 (Original): A matting agent, comprising at least one wax-coated silica particle produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 16 (Original): A coating composition, comprising at least one wax-coated silica particle produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 17 (Original): An alkyd resin, comprising at least one wax-coated silica particle produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 18 (Original): A stoving paint, comprising at least one wax-coated silica particle produced by the process as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A process, comprising:

a step for coating at least a portion of a surface of at least one silica particle with at least one wax, wherein said coating is carried out in a milling chamber with at least one gas at a temperature above the melting point of said wax ~~and below the decomposition temperature of said wax~~ while spraying a gas heated to a temperature of from 60 to 160°C into the milling chamber, wherein the temperature of the gas at an outlet of the milling chamber is from 40 to 140°C,

to obtain at least one wax-coated silica particle.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A process, comprising:

a step for impregnating at least one pore of at least one silica particle with at least one wax, wherein said coating is carried out in a milling chamber with at least one gas at a temperature above the melting point of said wax ~~and below the decomposition temperature of said wax~~ while spraying the gas heated to a temperature of from 60 to 160°C into the milling chamber, wherein the temperature of the gas at an outlet of the milling chamber is from 40 to 140°C,

to obtain at least one wax-impregnated silica particle.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A process, comprising:

impregnating at least one pore of at least one silica particle with at least one wax, wherein said impregnating is carried out in a milling chamber with at least one gas at a temperature above the melting point of said wax ~~and below the decomposition temperature of said wax~~ while spraying the gas heated to a temperature of from 60 to 160°C into the milling chamber, wherein the temperature of the gas at an outlet of the milling chamber is from 40 to 140°C,

to obtain at least one wax-impregnated silica particle.

Claim 22 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax has a melting point of 64°C to 112°C.

Claim 23 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax has a melting point of from 64°C to 86°C.

Claim 24 (New): The wax-coated silica particles as claimed in claim 14, wherein the wax-coated silica particle does not detach the wax when kept at 50°C in ethoxypropylacetate.

Claim 25 (New): The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coating is carried out at a temperature of from 40°C to 120°C.

Claim 26 (New): The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coating is carried out at a temperature of from 40°C to 100°C.

Claim 27 (New): The process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the coating is carried out at a temperature of from 40 to 80°C.

Claim 28 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the coating is carried out with a single wax.

Claim 29 (New): The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the coating is carried out with a single wax.

Claim 30 (New): The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the impregnating is carried out with a single wax.

Claim 31 (New): The process as claimed in claim 21, wherein the impregnating is carried out with a single wax.

Claim 32 (New): The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the wax has a melting point of from 64°C to 118°C.